

William T. (Ron) Roberts, Jr.
Chair

Roland M. Toups
Vice Chair

Frances T. Henry
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253
FAX (225) 342-9318

William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Reggie Dupré
Robert W. Levy
William A. Oliver
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Norbert A. Simmons
William Clifford Smith
Pat A. Strong
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Steven Sumbler
Student Member

June 23, 2003

Commissioner of Higher Education expresses appreciation for state support

Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie expressed appreciation today to the Governor and legislators for their support of additional funding for Louisiana's public colleges and universities. The Louisiana Legislature today approved the state budget, which provides improved support to public postsecondary institutions.

"The Legislature has made some tough decisions that will pay positive long-term dividends for this state," said Savoie. "We applaud them for their commitment to assisting Louisiana's colleges and universities in maintaining the momentum that has been building over the past seven years."

Specifically, the budget provides funds for higher education to cover mandated cost increases in the areas of merit pay increases, group insurance and risk management adjustments. In addition, the budget provides:

- * \$5 million to support enrollment growth at Louisiana's community and technical colleges,
- * \$5.25 million to assist four-year institutions as they transition to new admissions requirements,
- * \$2 million to partially address the backlog of private donations to fund endowed chairs and professorships at Louisiana's colleges and universities,
- * \$2.7 million to assist institutions in hiring needed faculty in order to meet the state's nursing shortage,
- * \$1.5 million to support the state's pharmacy school, and
- * \$1 million to support additional research at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

(More)

Commissioner Expresses Appreciation

ADD ONE

“As a result of these combined funding initiatives our institutions will continue in their critical role of addressing the state’s educational and workforce needs while spurring continued economic and social development,” said Savoie.

The Commissioner pointed out that another major accomplishment of the session was the passage of a tuition policy bill designed to align tuition and fee policies with state-funded student financial aid programs to assure access and affordability at Louisiana colleges and universities.

The Commissioner will make additional comments regarding the impact of the legislative session on postsecondary education during the Regents regularly scheduled board meeting on June 25 and June 26.